

Amendments to the Specification

Page 2, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 19-26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a method for the sterilization of containers for injections (according to Japanese Pharmacopoeia, a rubber stopper is also defined as a container) and for the sterilization of instruments for medical treatments, the ISO Guide Line or Japanese Pharmacopoeia describes that among a high pressure steam ~~sterilization~~ sterilization, gaseous sterilization with ethylene oxide and radiation sterilization, a high pressure steam ~~sterilization~~ sterilization is exclusively used for rubber stoppers for medicaments and gaseous sterilization and radiation sterilization are carried out for plastic instruments for medical treatments.

Page 13, please replace the paragraph spanning line 21 through page 14, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The inventors have made various efforts and consequently, have found that when a rubber stopper for a medicament comprising butyl rubber excellent in sealing property is sterilized by application of radiation, with the proviso, as a primary optimum sterilizing condition, that electron beam is selected as a beam source and the degree of microorganism contamination on the surface of an article to be sterilized is low, use of a rubber stopper which is designed to decrease its density, in particular, to at most 0.95, so that electron beam is sufficiently transmitted by the application of a dose as low as possible for sterilizing and in a short period of time, is effective for readily transmitting radiation and advancing the radiation ~~treatment~~ treatment with less oxidation and deterioration of the resin. The present invention is based on this finding.

Page 17, please replace the paragraphs spanning lines 10-26 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Each Sample a prepared according to corresponding conditions is cut in a size of about 10 mm long, about 1 mm broad and about 1 mm thick. A piece of the cut Sample a is combined by

passing through a very fine silk yarn positioned as near the end part as possible and cut to retain a suitable length of about 15 cm. A piece of the silk yarn fitted Sample a is charged in a weighing vial of No. 9 (self weight about 8 g) and sealed by a grind ground glass stopper. Then, the whole weight is precisely measured to a unit of mg using a chemical balance of digital type.

The Sample a is suspended in a glass-made Nessler's tube of 30 mL (manufactured by Pyrex R, length of 200 mm, outer diameter of 21 mm), in which 20 mL of cyclohexane has been charged, under sealed state by the use of a separately prepared rubber stopper without using any grind ground glass stopper. During the same time, it is to be noted that Sample a (rubber small piece) is not contacted with the inner wall or bottom part of the glass tube. The Nessler's tube is inserted in a test tube stand and allowed to stand at room temperature, 20 to 25 °C until Sample a reaches equilibrium swelling (ordinarily, 3 to 5 days depending on the rubber formulation or crosslinking desmity density).

Page 19, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 2-19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A higher density rubber composition (crosslinked product) encounters such a phenomenon that applied radiation or electron beam tends to attenuate so that there occurs a large difference in absorption dose between the incident surface and the inner part or back surface of the body to be irradiated such as rubber stoppers for medicaments, rubber instruments for medical treatments, rubber parts for medical treatment instruments, etc., and the surface vicinity of the body to be irradiated is strongly deteriorated. An attenuated portion can be supplemented by the increased irradiation dose, but if so, the difference in absorption dose between the incident surface and the inner part or back surface of the body to be irradiated, as described above, is more and more increased, resulting in a larger problem. In order to clarify the relationship between the density of the specified rubber composition (crosslinked rubber product) according to the present invention and the irradiation dose and ~~transmission~~ transmission dose (= irradiation dose - absorption dose, attenuation part), it is a desired condition to ordinarily adjust the irradiation dose (substituted by the absorption dose) to at least 25 kGy sufficient to realize a sterilization guarantee level of 10^{-6} for an instrument for a medical treatment.